

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

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DRAFTED BY: ARA: CBJACOBINI

APPROVED BY: ARA: CBJACOBINI

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 232676

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS, FOR SHLAUDEMAM FROM LUERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT QUITO 6737 ACTION SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE

19 SEP 76

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6737

STADIS

LIMDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AND AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

MANAGUA PLEASE PASS ASST SECY SHLAUDERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENERG, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: GOE-GULF DISPUTE

REF: (A) QUITO 6735 (B) STATE 231069

1. GULF'S LOCAL MANAGER CAME TO SEE ME SUNDAY MORNING TO TELL
ME THAT HIS PRINCIPALS IN CORAL GABLES (HE MENTIONED WYCHE)

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(A) HAD REJECTED HIS PROPOSAL THAT THE BALANCE OF THE SPECIAL

ACCOUNT AFTER CREDITING THE ADVANCE DEPOSITS BE CONVERTED INTO AN ESCROW ACCOUNT (B) HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE GULF LETTER HAD BEEN WORKED OUT WITH THE ADVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT "EXCEPT FOR ONE STATE DEPARTMENT LAWYER" WHO HAD SUGGESTED AN ESCROW ACCOUNT, THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND GULF ON THE LETTER, AND (C) ASKED HIM TO RAISE THE POSSIBILITY OF MY CALLING ON PRESIDENT POVEDA RIGHT AFTER GULF PRESENTS THE LETTER IN ORDER TO LEND USG SUPPORT TO THE PROPOSAL.

2. I TOLD THE GULF MANAGER THAT MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION REGARDING THE KEY QUESTION OF THE ESCROW ACCOUNT WAS COMPLETELY AT VARIANCE WITH THAT GIVEN HIM BY CORAL GABLES AND THAT MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE "ONE STATE DEPARTMENT LAWYER" WAS INDEED PRESENTING THE VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT IN URGING AN ESCROW ACCOUNT.

3. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT I DID NOT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE, FOR THE REASONS CITED IN REFTTEL (A), FOR ME TO SO CLOSELY ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH THE GULF OFFER AS WOULD BE THE CASE IF IT WERE TO IMMEDIATELY CALL ON THE GOE AS GULF WAS SUGGESTING, I SAID I WOULD PREFER TO WAIT FOR THE GOE'S INITIAL REACTION TO THE GULF LETTER BEFORE DECIDING MY NEXT MOVE. THE GULF MANAGER SAID HE WOULD DELIVER THE LETTER TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPT 20 AND WOULD WAIT 24 HOURS BEFORE CALLING ON GOE OFFICIALS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR REACTION.

4. I AM DISTURBED BY THE APPARENT MISPERCEPTION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION REF (B) ON THE ESCROW ACCOUNT BY GULF OFFICIALS, A MISPERCEPTION WHICH I WOULD HOPE COULD BE PROMPTLY CORRECTED. BLOOMSFIELD UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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